

**Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and
Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays
Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (BBASC)**

Wednesday, February 2, 2011
Paws & Taws Fulton Convention Center
402 N. Fulton Beach Rd.
Fulton, TX 78358

MINUTES

Aransas Bay Tour

The tour of Aransas Bay was canceled due to mechanical problems. Members participated in a short driving tour that included viewings of Whooping Cranes and coastal habitat. Joan Garland of the International Crane Foundation presented a brief history of the Whooping Crane and its annual migration from Wood Buffalo National Park in the northwest territories of Canada to the Whooping Crane refuge in San Antonio Bay. She also announced the Annual Whooping Crane Festival scheduled for February 24-27 in Port Aransas.

Members Present: Suzanne Scott, Chair; Dianne Wassenich, vice chair; Tim Andruss (for Thurman Clements); Roger Biggers (for Paula DiFonzo); Bill Braden; Jack Campbell, Steve Clouse (for Robert Puente); Karl Dreher; Ken Dunton; Jennifer Ellis (for Tyson Broad); Garrett Engelking; Steve Fotiades; Jay Gray; Chris Hale; Jerry James; James Lee Murphy; Mike Peters; Steve Raabe (for Con Mims); Kimberly Stoker; West Warren; Walter Womack Jennifer Youngblood;

Introductions and Public Comment:

Roll call was taken and a quorum was reached. There was no public comment at this time.

Discussion and agreement on agenda

The draft meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of meeting minutes for December 2010 and January 2011

The minutes from the December 1, 2010 were approved by consensus. The minutes from the January 12, 2011 meeting were amended to show the attendance of Brad Bredesen for Mike Peters. Minutes were approved as amended, by consensus.

BBEST Update

BBEST Chair Sam Vaughn gave an update on recent activities of the BBEST. Their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2011, also in Rockport. A second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011 to approve and finalize environmental flow recommendations so that any final changes can be completed by the March 1, 2011 deadline.

He noted that at this time, most of the technical work is complete and efforts are focused on refining the recommendations and process documentation. He stated that the BBEST has selected 16 instream sites as well as the estuaries for which environmental flow recommendations are being developed. He presented an overview of how the BBEST recommendations are structured. The statistical hydrology analysis, including HEFR and

time series analysis, is complete and members are working on process documentation. He added that members are working on the biology, geomorphology, habitat, riparian and other overlays, and presented a brief description of their efforts. By integrating this information and correlating with the hydrology analyses, it is possible to relate flow with diversity in habitat of the different guilds of indicator species. These findings can then be overlaid with the statistical hydrology for the different tiers of flow to make sure that the recommendations are protective of a sound ecological environment.

Discussion on scopes of work and the selection process for Technical and Facilitation Assistance

Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), stated that at the last meeting the BBASC had authorized SARA to solicit proposals for technical and facilitation assistance to aid the BBASC in the development of their final recommendations. The technical proposal was sent to the 6 firms the BBEST used for similar services. The facilitation proposal was sent to 25 firms from several sources. Proposals are due Monday, February 7, 2011 and will be distributed to the evaluation team the following day. The team will meet February 17 or 18, 2011. The team will negotiate the final scope based on available funding, and hopes to have a recommendation for BBASC approval at the March 2, 2011 meeting.

Members discussed the factors outlined in the technical scope of work, what considerations the contractor will need to address, and provided comments received on the draft scope. Steve Raabe reviewed with the committee specific modifications to the scope previously submitted to him by Tyson Broad. By consensus the scope was modified to include, subject to budget considerations, a qualitative assessment of effects on streamflows of 1) groundwater use in the headwaters of streams using the GMA 9 model runs, 2) climate change and 3) effects of invasive woody species. Members were asked to review the two scopes and submit any comments by Monday February 7, 2011.

Cedar Bayou Presentation – George Ward, SAC

Dr. George Ward presented results from the Cedar Bayou project, designed to establish a timeline of conditions that define Cedar Bayou, compiling historical data. He discussed the sources of information used in the project, sources of error related to the data, and observations made upon analysis of available data. Dr. Ward answered questions of the members.

Set Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 am on March 2, 2011 to be held at the San Antonio Water Systems. The primary focus of the meeting will be the BBEST report. Copies of the BBEST recommendation will be distributed at the meeting and a presentation on the report will be given by BBEST members. The BBASC will have 6 months from this date to finalize their recommendations. There will also be a recommendation from the selection committee on the technical and facilitation RFPs and process selection.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Adjourn